

17. (Amended) An optical system in which an image is formed on an image formation plane through a lens element, said optical system comprising at least one of a diaphragm and a shutter incorporated in said lens element,

wherein said at least one of the diaphragm and the shutter is formed by an optical element having a container and first and second liquids contained sealingly in said container, said first and second liquids being substantially equal in refractive index, said first and second liquids existing without mixing with each other, said first and second liquids differing from each other in transmittance, and said first and second liquids making the boundary between said first and second liquids having a predetermined shape and

wherein an electrode is formed in said optical element in such a place as to avoid interference with passage of a bundle of rays incident upon said optical element.

30. (Amended) An optical system in which a predetermined image is formed or light of the image is converged by a lens element, said optical system comprising a variable-power element incorporated in the lens element,

wherein said variable-power element has a container having a side surface inclined at a predetermined angle from an optical axis, and first and second liquids contained sealingly in said container, said first and second liquids differing substantially from each other in refractive index, said first and second liquids existing without mixing with each other, and said first and second liquids making the boundary between said first and second liquids having a rounded shape and